Decline in prices of cash crops

*205. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the sharp fall in the prices of cash crops like rubber, copra, tobacco, pepper etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by Government to regulate the export and import of cash crops to help the farmers; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The Price of Natural Rubber (RSS-IV Grade) which was around Rs. 30 per kg. In July 1994, touched more than Rs. 60 per kg. In June 1995. Since November 1996, the prices started declining and at present are ruling around Rs. 33 per kg. The domestic prices of natural rubber are however above the international prices.

The prices of milling copra have started declining since February 2000 and at present are ruling around Rs. 2300 per quintal which is below the minimum support price level of Rs. 3250 per quintal.

Grade-wise average prices of tobacco for the current and previous year are given below:

Grade	2000	1999
Bright	41.56	41.27
Medium	31.30	32.75
Low	16.14	17.58

There has been no decline in the price of pepper.

(c) and (d) The import of Natural Rubber is in the Restricted

List and is allowed against AL/SIL. The import of Natural Rubber under Advance Licences has also been banned since February '99 in order to enhance the consumption of indigenous rubber and to help the rubber growers get remunerative price for their produce. The export of Natural Rubber is free.

The import of copra is in the Restricted List. To stablise the falling price of copra and to ensure remunerative prices to the growers, basic duty of 35% with asurcharge of 10% is levied on import of copra. The export of copra is free.

The import of tobacco products like cigars, cheroots, cigarillos and cigarettes and other manufactured tobacco substitutes are restricted and allowed only against a licence. Export of tobacco is free.

Import and export of pepper is free.

News-item "Centre going slow on anti-dumping drive"

*206. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Centre going slow on anti-dumping drive", published in the Asian Age, dated 12th July, 2000;

(b) if so, his reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to address the various problems highlighted in the newsitems?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & allied duties (DGAD) is fully geared to investigate cases arising out of dumping of imports, causing injury to domestic industry in India. From 1992, to date, 70 cases have been initiated, in which Final Findings have been given in 53 cases, and Provosiional Findings in 7 cases.

The Rules of Anti-dumping investigations in India are in